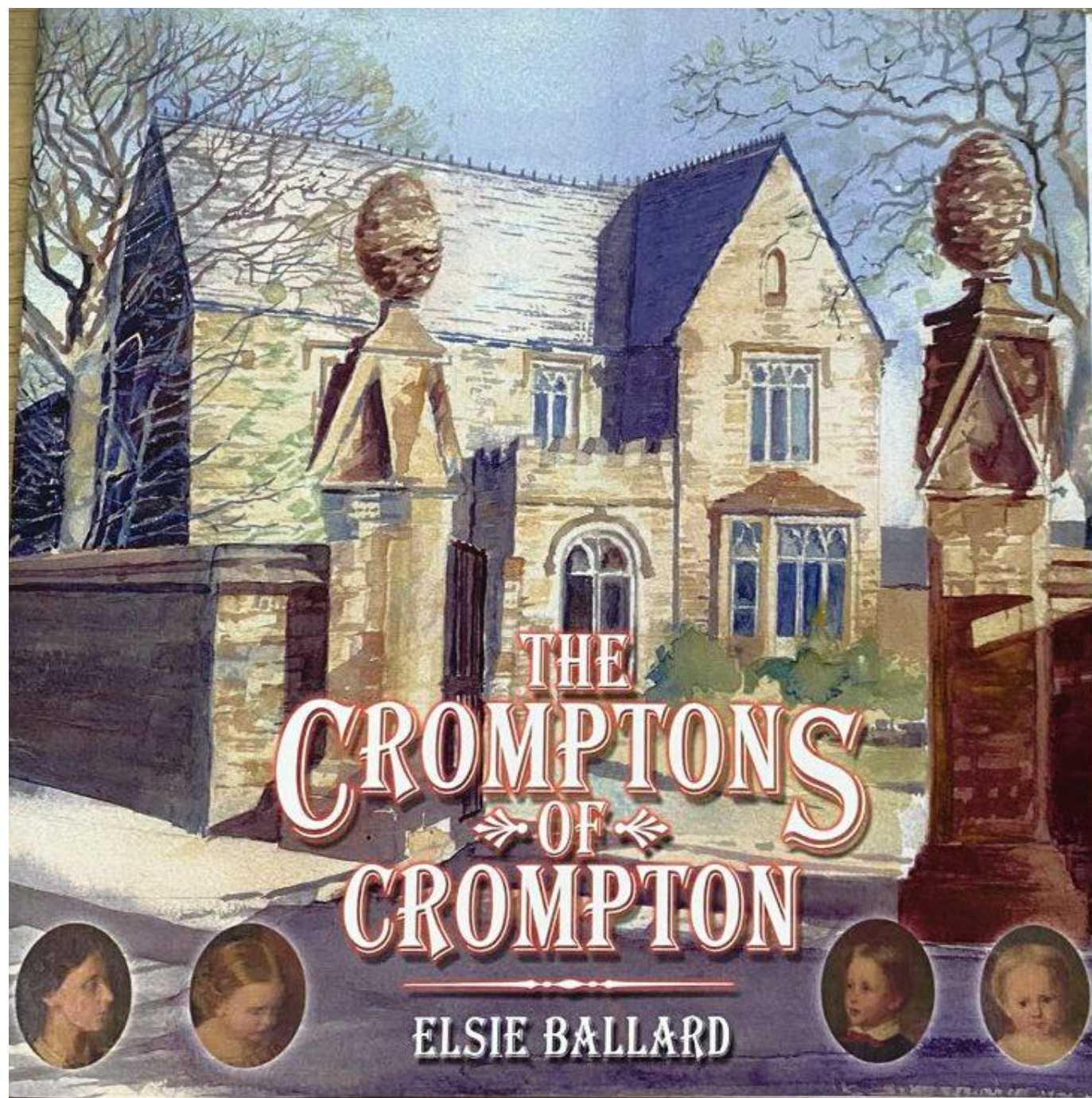




THE CROMPTONS OF CROMPTON

Published by:
Crompton House School
Rochdale Road, Shaw, Oldham OL2 7HS
Telephone: 01706 847451 Fax: 01706 291454
Email: admin@crompton-house.oldham.sch.uk Web: www.crompton-house.oldham.sch.uk

Crompton House School and Mrs Ballard would like to thank everyone who has been involved in this project.

Front Cover: Crompton House from a painting by Wright Platt
Insets: See caption page 16

Back Cover:
Crompton Family Coat of Arms. Recently authenticated by the College of Arms
Design by the Ratcliff Partnership

Booklet Designed & Printed by Kwikprint Digital World, Oldham

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❁ THE CROMPTON FAMILY ❁

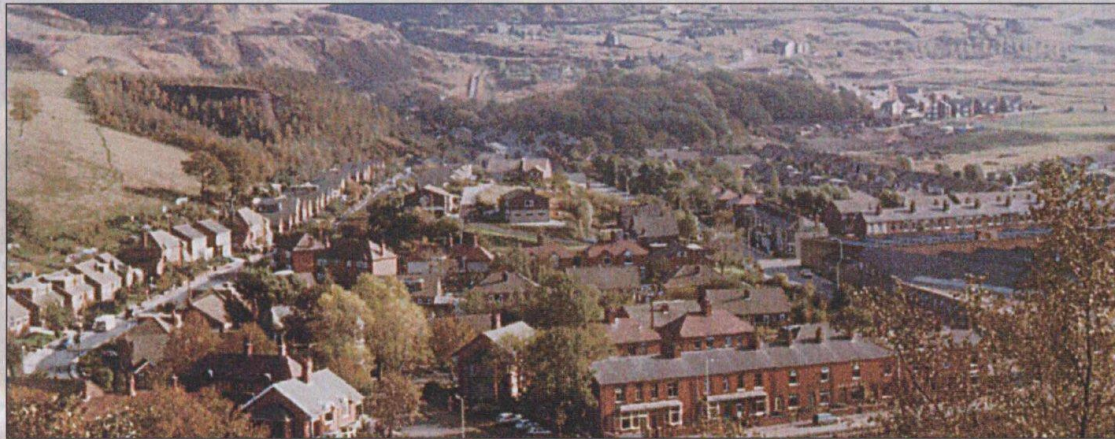
The Township of Crompton lies midway between Oldham and Rochdale but since 1974 the area has been part of the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham.

The Crompton family name can be traced back to the beginning of law and order in England, following the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215.

From these early days the family held a large tract of land, part

of which was subject to a rent charge payable to the Abbot of Cockersand Abbey, near Lancaster.

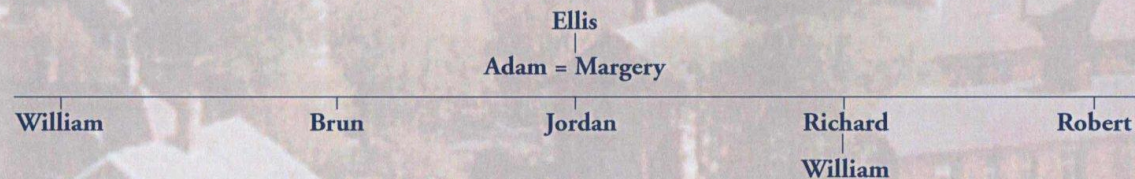
The Crompton estate stretched from the River Beal near Buckstones Road, up the hill and over Crompton Moor to the Crompton/Saddleworth boundary and included Whetstonehill and Sholver. There were two family homes, Crompton Hall and Whetstonehill Farm.



Location of the first Crompton estate

Extracts from existing records in the Public Record Office, the British Museum, Record Offices and Libraries

1246 An Assize Roll provides the names of the first recorded Crompton Family:



- 1259 Land deal between Robert de Crompton and Geoffrey de Chetam.
- 1260 Robert, son of Adam de Crompton, witness to a charter relating to Sholver.
- 1280 Land deal between William, son of Adam de Crompton and John Chaydoc.
- 1317 Jordan de Crompton held land in Crompton.
- 1332 Robert de Crompton paid land tax.
- 1346 William son of Peter de Crompton held land in Crompton.
- 1422 William son of Ralph de Crompton held land in Crompton.
- 1439 John de Crompton held land on lease from John de Chetham.
- 1442 John de Crompton renewed the lease of Crompton Hall.
- 1454 John Crompton died. Left property to his son William Crompton.
- 1454 William Crompton married Johanna Beaumont of Lingard (near Huddersfield).
- 1480 Boundary dispute between William Crompton and Thomas Chetham.
- 1500 William Crompton died, holding Crompton Hall and Whetstonehill.
- 1502 Johanna Crompton, widow and John Crompton her son, agreed a settlement with Robert Crompton, son and heir of William Crompton. (This John married Katharine Hulton and settled at Prestolee, near Farnworth).
- 1526 Robert Crompton paid tax on Crompton Hall.
- 1544 Robert Crompton paid rent for the 'Cockersand' land, four years rent 48 pence, payable to James Browne of the Manor of Westhoughton. This marks the change following the Dissolution of the Monasteries. James Browne had bought the 'ground rent'.
- 1544 First mention of the Crompton coat of arms on the seal of Robert Crompton.
- 1550 Thomas Crompton married Margaret Newton of Newton in Longdendale.
- 1560 Thomas Crompton's son William paid the rent for 'Cockersand' land to James Browne.
- 1587 William Crompton died holding Crompton Hall and Whetstonehill a total of 163 acres. His son and heir Thomas was 13.
- 1598 Thomas Crompton married Jane Newbold, daughter of Edmund Newbold of Rochdale.
- 1601 Ann, widow of William Crompton died at Whetstonehill.
- 1607 Thomas Crompton died, aged 33, leaving his widow Jane, and three daughters, Deborah, Grace and Alice. Because they were all under seven years old they were made 'wards of court', the estate was taken under the control of the King until the girls reached 21, and their guardianship was given to a member of the father's family. What little evidence there is suggests that the girls went to live with their Uncle Abel and his family at Whetstonehill and Thomas's brother Samuel managed the estate. There is no further mention of Jane.
- 1625 The girls were now all over 21 years of age and applied to the Court for the restoration of their inheritance.
- 1642 A law suit claiming unpaid rents due to the estate shows that the girls had married:
Deborah to Samuel Hamer of Rochdale
Grace to John Nuttall of Blakely
Alice to Robert Hyde of Denton, who on behalf of his wife, was granted leave to bear the Crompton coat of arms.

The Crompton occupation of the original estate came to an end in 1607, but the family line continues through Samuel Crompton, one of Thomas's brothers.

Because of the turmoil in the country in the early 1600's and the ensuing Civil War, there are large gaps in the parish registers, but evidence from Wills tells us that in 1621 Abel Crompton of Whetstonehill and Samuel Crompton of Crompton valued the goods of John Taylor of Lanehead, Ashton. John Taylor had married Deborah, sister of Abel and Samuel, and this evidence sets them firmly in the 'Crompton' line.

Abel continued at Whetstonehill and started a family line which spread throughout that area of Oldham.

Using Wills again, we find that Samuel had three sons, Samuel, William and Thomas, all living in Crompton. In 1653 Samuel, the eldest son, was a tenant farmer at Whitfield, and over the next few years bought his farm and the surrounding land, extending from Wren's Nest through Whitfield to the boundary with Milnrow. Samuel was Churchwarden representing the people of Crompton at Oldham Parish Church. His Will of 1658 shows him to be one of the wealthy men in the area. He held large stocks of cloth, wool and woollen yarn, and was probably a dealer, as he had no sheep of his own. 30 local people are named as debtors, owing amounts between 1s.8d. and £11, and were probably his customers.

Samuel's son Abel married Esther Wild, the daughter of the wealthy Abraham Wild of Oozewood in Royton, they lived at Low Crompton. In 1678 Abel bought a farm at High Crompton, the records of this purchase and that of Whitfield describe the land using field names which were still in use when the first Tithe Map was drawn about 1840. This has made it possible to identify the areas of land in both instances, and proves that the farm at High Crompton was the site of the school.

Abel's sons were the main beneficiaries of Abraham Wild's estate and the three brothers Abel, Abram and William between them owned farms at Oozewood and Broadbent in Royton, High Crompton, Whitfield, Woodend and Mosshey in Crompton.

Abel lived at High Crompton and in 1710 extended the original house. A date stone on a doorway with the initials of Abel Crompton and his wife Mary still exists inside the school building.

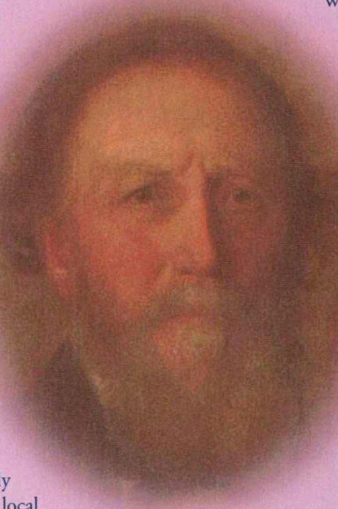
When Abel died in 1755, a detailed inventory was made of his 'goods and chattels', naming the rooms in the house and their contents. In the barn and stable were one horse, six cows, hay, corn, plough and harrows, ladders and other farming implements. There was also a 'loom-house' containing all the equipment needed for the production of cloth.

Abel and William left no heirs, so the properties descended to Abram's sons - Abel b.1712, Abram b.1717. Abram lived at Oozewood and Abel at Woodend until the death of his aunt, when he moved to High Crompton.

At this time there were no schools as we know them, it was probably a private tutor who, in 1759, was teaching Abel's twelve year old son Abram the mysteries of the decimal system.

Abram's work book shows a sum 'Reduce six yards to the decimal of one mile'.

In 1785 Abram bought Coldhurst Farm in Oldham, identifiable by 'Crompton St' near the Royal Oldham Hospital. He soon began leasing plots of land for building and made a generous contribution to the building of Coldhurst Church. In 1810 he leased the coal mining rights for far more than the £2,100 he had originally paid for the farm. Apparently it was sitting on top of a coal seam.



In 1822 Abram's son, John Crompton was the defendant in a paternity case at Lancaster Quarter Sessions Court, Ann Clegg of High Crompton had given birth to an illegitimate child and was reputed to have said 'John Crompton shall have the soot, let who will sweep the chimney'. A witness, Ed Taylor, said he had kept company with Ann Clegg for about six years. They had intercourse and Ann Clegg had got medicine for an abortion. A family letter states 'the child looks like Ed Taylor but has a crooked foot like John Wilde'. In spite of the evidence, the verdict went against John Crompton.

John's brother Abel was also involved with an illegitimate child, but in this case the girl, Kate Hamilton and her son Abel, were sent to America where Abel supported them.

Abel and his sister Alice Milne were the founders of A & A Crompton & Co, and from 1834 onwards the family were very much involved with the Park and Woodend Mills, in fact Abel and John went to live with Alice at Park House, presumably to be nearer the factory and also to help with Alice's five children.

John and Abel died unmarried, so it was left to their brother Abram to carry on the 'Crompton' name at High Crompton. Two of Abram's sons, John and Joshua, studied law in London, but left the profession and with their brother Barlow were actively involved in the management of the family textile business. Their brother Abram seems to have been occupied managing the family farms which covered more than 100 acres. Barlow married Esther Cocker, they were living at Woodend when their daughter Mary was born in 1856. The two sisters were married: Catherine to John Cocker of Newbank, a clergyman, and Sarah to Joshua Milne Cheetham, who owned Clough Mill.

In 1872 East Crompton Parish was to be divided. The original

boundary line put the Crompton's home in High Crompton Parish, to which the family strongly objected. Joshua was Churchwarden, the Crompton's had long been staunch supporters of East Crompton Church, and it took six years of 'discussion' before the boundary line met with the Crompton's approval.

About this time several of the cotton magnates in the town were building palatial mansions with their newly acquired wealth, the Cromptons were not left behind. They built another addition to High Crompton House, this time in the fashionable Neo-Gothic style. Presumably the entrance gates and the circular drive for horse-drawn carriages were constructed at the same time.

This large house was occupied by the three elderly bachelors, John, Joshua and Abram and their servants. Barlow and Esther Crompton had died and Mary was at boarding school. Catherine was at Newbank with her husband and two daughters Catherine and Anne. Sarah had ten children but only one grandson, Sir Nicholas Cheetham who was a diplomat in the Foreign Office. To celebrate the Coronation of King George V in 1911 Abram gave to the town the land which is now Dun Wood Park, land which his ancestor Samuel had bought in 1654.

Through the centuries the Cromptons had taken their part in public service, as overseers, tax supervisors, churchwardens, magistrates, highway commissioners, local councillors etc.

Sadly the death of Abram in 1913 brought to an end the direct descent of the Crompton name in this locality, but there are 'Cromptons' around the world whose ancestry would link to this original line.



A&A CROMPTON

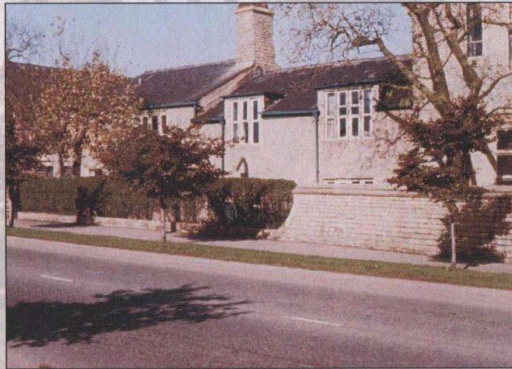
This is something of a misnomer, as the original partners were Alice Milne and Abel Crompton. Alice Crompton married James Milne who, in partnership with his father had a cotton mill at Park near Jubilee. James and his father died leaving Alice with five children under nine years old. She turned for help to her brother Abel who moved to Park House. They borrowed £2,000 from their father Abram Crompton and built a new mill which began production in 1834. After only one year the loan was paid back, Alice's brothers John and Abram invested money in the business which prospered and continued to expand.

The next generation of the family were soon involved in the business. John and Joshua Crompton had both studied law in London, but found that they could do better in the family business. John Crompton was the book-keeper, Joshua the supervisor and Barlow was in Liverpool dealing with the purchase of raw cotton and the sale of yarn from the factory. Alice Milne began to buy land which had been part of the original Crompton estate, in 1844 she paid £4,400 for Crompton Hall Farm, cottages and land, and in 1851 was living in the rebuilt Crompton Hall. As the business grew Barlow went to Constantinople (Istanbul) to supervise the yarn sales and Joshua took his place at Liverpool.

From the beginning the voting rights had been equally split between the two families, but trouble arose when two Milnes opposed the five Crompton's proposals for further expansion. In 1854 the Cromptons decided to build their own mill - Woodend - on land which they owned, conveniently just across the road from Park Mill.

The newly built Woodend Mill had more modern machinery and used better cotton than Park. The same manager - William Travis - was in charge of both mills, but Woodend produced better yarn. A confused state of rivalry and price undercutting arose between the two mills until 1874 when the Milnes bought a half share of Woodend.

In 1882 the two mills were brought together as a Limited Company, with James H Lees, Alice Milne's grandson, as Manager and Secretary. In accordance with the Will of his uncle, Henry T Milne, James H Lees became James H Lees-Milne. He achieved the amalgamation of the two firms and put the business into a leading position in the yarn export trade. A & A Crompton were selling yarn to Rumania, Serbia, Armenia and Bulgaria, establishing a footing in Eastern Europe by building weaving factories in Belgrade and Bucharest. The firm's wide interests were shown in donations to The Armenian Famine Fund, Persecuted Jews, Java Earthquake, Serbian Flood, Rumanian Flood and the Belgrade Orphanage.



At Park Mill an engine house was built, housing new engines with the largest driving wheel of any mill in the world. A bleach works was set up utilising a nearby stream, a railway siding was constructed with a track crossing the main road, enabling coal and cotton to be unloaded inside the mill, and finished yarns loaded into wagons in the warehouse and dispatched directly to their destination. Park and Woodend Mills were the first in the town to be lit by electricity.

This extensive development needed increased finance, leading to the decision in 1898 to convert the firm to a Public Limited Company with many more shareholders.

The directors of the new company were:

Abram Crompton, John Edward Lees, Joshua Crompton, Frederick Lees, James H Lees-Milne, James Crompton Cheetham

These were all direct descendants of the Abram Crompton who had provided the £2,000 to build the first mill.

The death of Abram and Joshua Crompton brought to an end the Crompton name in the list of directors. The firm continued in business until the decline of the textile industry after the Second World War. During the demolition of Woodend Mill in 1967 a forgotten 'secret' cupboard was discovered containing family papers which have been the source of much of the information relating to the Cromptons.

Crompton House showing 3 building styles

LETTERS

Among the family papers are a handful of letters giving a fascinating glimpse of life in the 1840's. John Crompton (1819-1904) took a position as an articled clerk with 'Milne, Parry, Milne and Morris, Solicitors'. Most of the letters are between John in London and his family and friends in High Crompton. When his father sent money he cut a £10 note in half, sent one half to John's lodgings and the other half to his office.

May 1840 From John Cocker, Newbank:

This is about inns, lodgings and eating places.

"Inns are expensive, I would go into lodgings. My brother and I stayed in Howard Street where we had rooms on the first floor. The beds were clean and free from vermin, but to save money we moved to the third floor where we were obliged to sleep in the chairs because of the vermin. I hope you like the chanting in Westminster Abbey."

Chop houses are mentioned: The Norfolk Coffee House in the Strand; The Cheshire Cheese in Fleet Street, William's Rooms in Ludgate Hill being celebrated for boiled beef.

August 1840 From Abram Crompton, John's father:

A short letter referring to the half of a £10 note, the other half sent to Messrs Milne and Parry.

"We have finished our hay, except the little meadow which we cut on Saturday."

December 1840 From J Barlow Crompton:

The half of a £10 note and news of a spot of bother following the introduction of new Rules for Sunday School teachers by Mr Hordern, the parson at Shaw Church.

"he will see whether I shall comply with them or not does he think that I shall walk with them up to chapel, sit with them, reach them their hats or caps, risking infection and you know what!"

There was a very large party at John Clegg's last week. Plenty of dancing and singing by all accounts.

Next week there are a whole cargo of folks from Crompton going to America, I think between 30 and 40, men, women and children.

Ely o' Tommus's and wife, Jammy o' Bobs and wife. I don't wonder at James Brierley going for his mules have had very little work lately, and you know he has a bastard to pay to, but I can't tell what Ely has to go for as he and his wife can earn about 30s. a week between them. If you see Tom Dyson tell him Ely sets sail on the 12th of February."

March 1841 From J B and Joshua Crompton:

"Joshua says you want a full account of the Ball, or rather Assembly we had on Thursday night. It was not very well attended, but it was entirely a select party. There was I think about forty. Very few of the company went off before five o'clock."

Then follows a list of guests, the stewards were James Milne, Joseph Clegg, John Milne and Jonathan Wilde.

Joshua writes the rest of the letter about borrowing books, rumours that John Cocker is studying divinity, plans for a Charity Ball to be held in the factory at Greenfield (Crompton) and asks when John is taking his examination.

March 1841 From Joshua Crompton:

Mr Hordern is leaving. He has exchanged livings with a clergyman in the south. Friends keep asking when John is taking his examination but John is keeping quiet.

March 1841 From Joshua Crompton

Joshua says that about ten of the cows have been poorly, but four of them are better. He then describes a hare-coursing event at 'Latham's', and how his Uncle John's dog 'Violet' was the best of the dozen that were there. With Uncle John were Thomas Robinson, Jacob Radcliffe, Ralph Marsh and Joseph Travis, who said that the sport quite exceeded their expectations. John Fielden MP has asked for a deputation to go to London about the Poor Law. Mr Hordern has gone to the parish of Chislet in Kent.

"Abram Milne says that Ann Selkirk - the lady you admired so much at Ashworth Hall - is going to marry a Rochdale gentleman of property. Our Barlow says next time you see the Duke of Wellington will you ask for his autograph."

April 1841 From John Worrall:

"An account of the new parson, Daniel Bramall is his name, low in stature, very fresh in his face and appears about fifty five years of age, has a shambling walk more like a farmer than a clergyman, but looks very well in his robes. He reads the prayers very well, I should say better than Mr H himself I don't recollect to have heard the Communion Service read better by any Minister whatsoever. He has a large family of children and his wife again in the way women wish to be who love."

Then follows a long detailed account of the sermon, Complaints about Attorneys increasing their charges, suggesting that John will have learned all the tricks when he comes home.

"John Throstle wife is dead, they buried her on Sunday, took her in a hearse driven by Jon o' Mat's son. They set off without those that were at John's house, about a dozen, and had to stop about Black Horse and send a messenger for those they had forgot."

Old John Reedmaker's wife died this morning. I think she was Old Tarbant's lass. Your Uncle John's chestnut horse is very poorly of an inflammation of the lungs, Tom thought he would die but he is better today."

April 1841 From J Barlow Crompton:

Barlow was to be one of the enumerators for the Census on the 7th of June. Previous Censuses had been merely head counts, but this was the first time that the names, ages and occupations of each member of every household were recorded. Barlow's area covered Longfield, Netherhouse, Howriding, Rushy Fields, Top o' Knowl, Pastures and Shepcotes. He expected to make 25-30 shillings. Some of the other enumerators were John Worrall, Henry Cocker, William Woodhead and Richard Greaves. John Cocker had an article in the Manchester Courier.

George Travis held a dinner party, some of the guests being Uncle John Crompton, John Milnes, Benjamin Travis, Tom Cocker, William Brideoak and the new parson.

April 1841 From John Worrall:

"I have been regularly to hear Dr Bramhall since he came and am exceedingly well pleased with him."

He goes on to say that at Dr Bramhall's first service he could hardly be heard because of the great amount of coughing. It was quiet during the anthem but started up again after. The parson must have thought it was a very asthmatical place.

"Henry Kershaw, James Wild and Samuel Worrall have lost cows with an inflammation of the lungs. Benj Travis went past this morning - bottled up, your Uncle John arrived home about 7 having been at Dick's all night, my father was there too but has not yet come home."

Here are two letters from John Crompton in London to his brother Barlow:

Undated -

"I didn't go down to Westminster last Tuesday to see the Queen but I understand she was very tamely cheered. Some of the papers say the Queen was loudly cheered with bursts of acclamation at every step and such like - all this is pure fabrication indeed one gentleman told me he was sorry to see the crowd so quiet but he thought that were he to get up and shout nobody would join in. Another gentleman green from the country told me he had lost his pocket handkerchief although there were crowds of policemen about."

The time I have been up here makes me think it is a very long job to be made an Attorney."

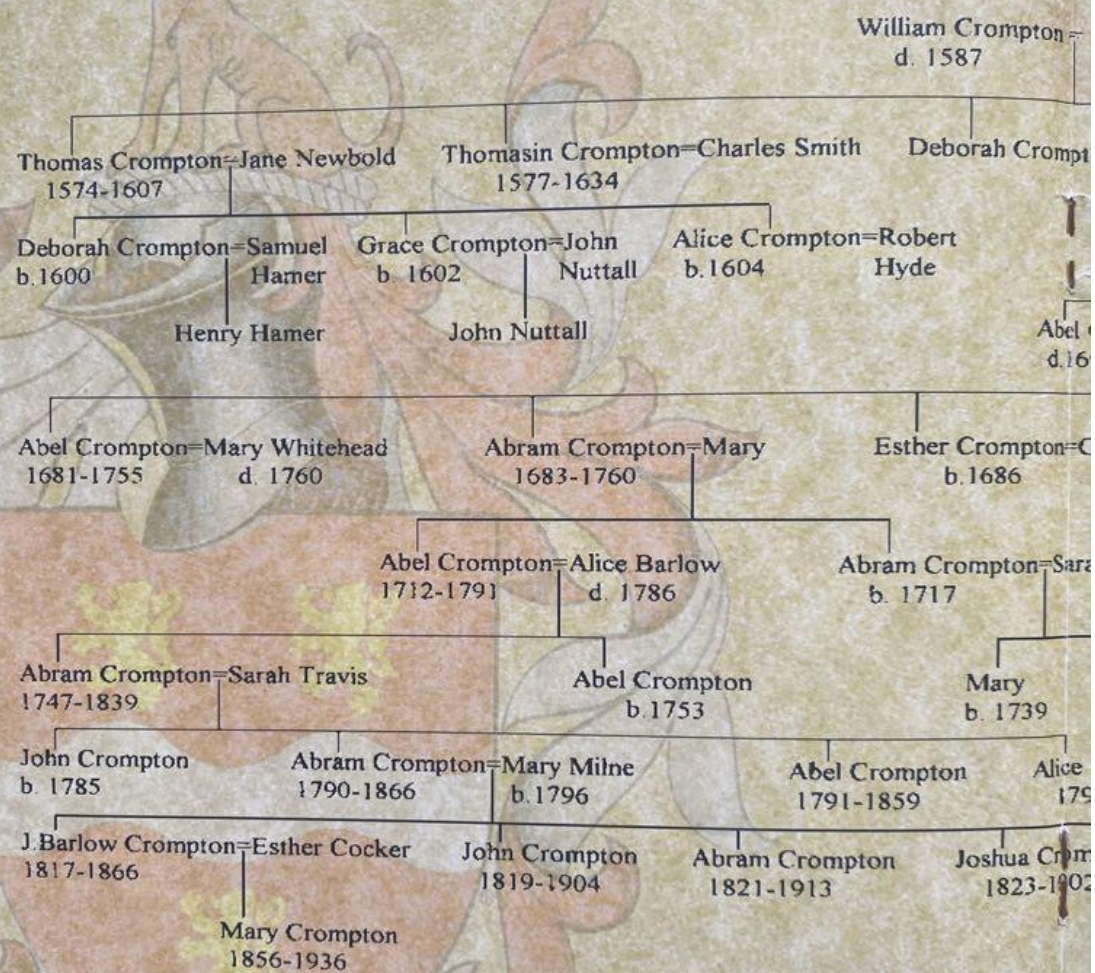
June 1841:

"I have succeeded in my Examination - I understand I shall want about £50 to pay the charges for my admission."

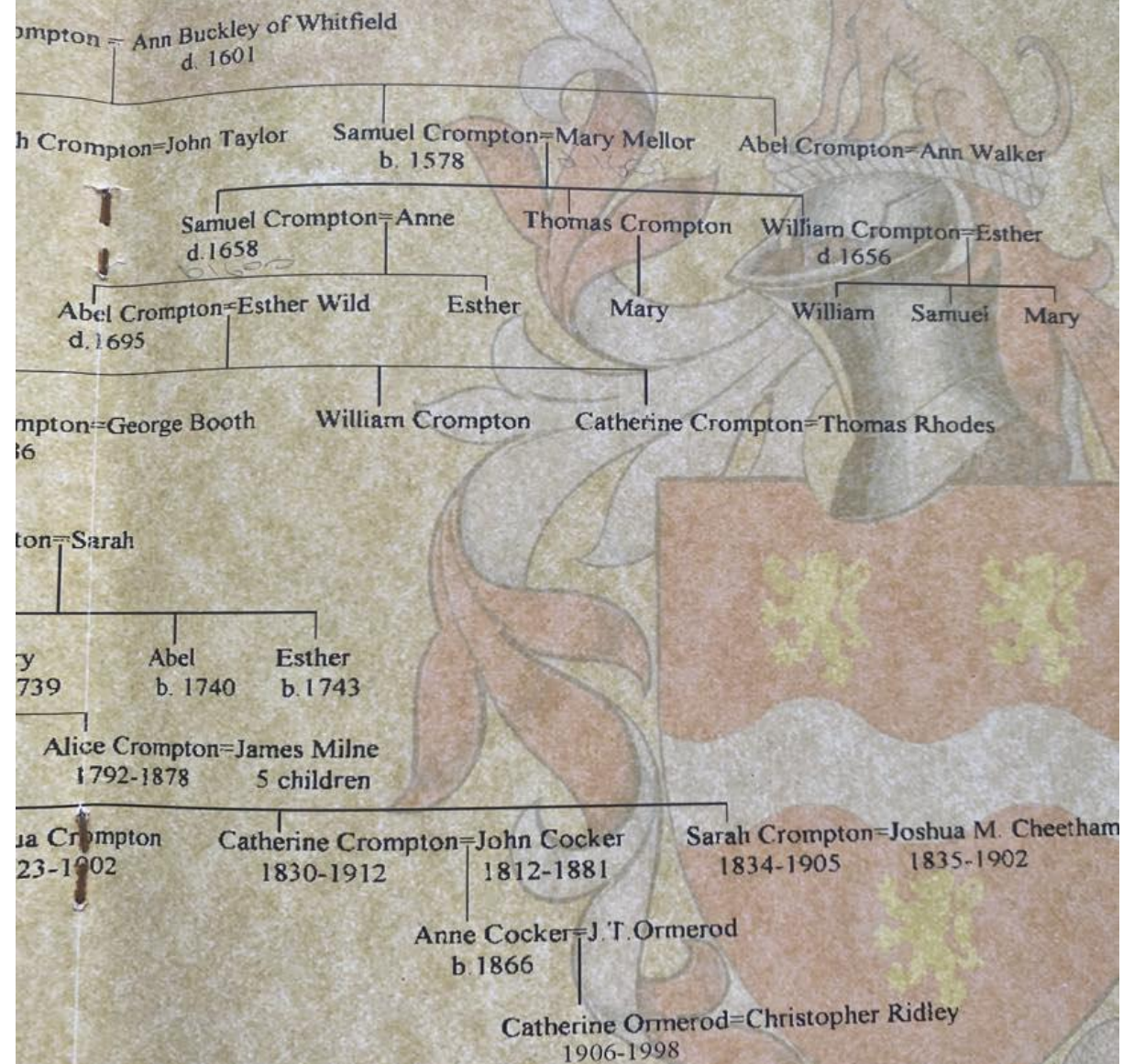
Barlow is planning a visit to London, John suggests that he gets a letter from Uncle Joshua to John Fielden MP to help them to get admittance to the House of Lords - and the Commons. He also tells Barlow to borrow Critchleys guide to London from James Milne of Greenfield.

He ends the letter - *"I have not time to say more as it is six o'clock and I am quite ill for want of my dinner."*

The Crompton Family



Family Tree from 1587



Now we have two very different 'love letters':

April 1857 The Revd J Littler to Miss Sarah Crompton:

"My dear Miss Sarah

I do not feel that I should be justified in any longer withholding from you that for some time I have entertained feelings toward you more than those of ordinary esteem and friendship that, in short, you have won my heart. This being the case I am constrained to offer you my hand also."

The Revd Littler wanted to know what Sarah's feelings were in this matter before he formally asked her father for permission to court her. He begged her not to tell her father about the letter and to trust no one else with the reply.

The fact that this letter was with the family papers means that Sarah's father did see the letter. We do not know if there was a reply, but we do know that Sarah married Joshua Milne Cheetham, owner of Clough Mill.

June 1859 From Kate Hamilton, New Jersey, US to Abel Crompton:

"My dearest friend

Why, why have you not written and sent the usual remittance. Your silence has caused me the greatest uneasiness for dear Abel is dying and I am in the greatest distress. The period to hear from you is past some time ago and no letter, it is so strange, what can it mean. In a short time your poor suffering son will be at rest. I shall then trouble you no more, but oh I beseech you do not permit your son to die in want. Little did I think when years ago I left all that you might be unembarrassed and happy that you would fail me in this moment."

This is a very long letter, but the first paragraph tells the story. The reason Abel Crompton had not sent 'the usual remittance' was that he had died, but Kate was not aware of the fact.

**MARY CROMPTON 1856-1936
AND THE SCHOOL**



Mary Crompton's parents, James Barlow and Esther Crompton both died when she was quite young, her uncle John Cocker became her guardian, and she went to boarding school - The Ladies School in Cheltenham.

At this time Mary had no other home, the end of term accounts show that the school principal provided Mary's clothes, the cost of outings, presents to her friends etc. The bills were all sent to John Cocker. Mary was still at Cheltenham when she was twenty-four years old, a letter describes her as very quiet and reserved, doubts were expressed about her ability to manage her own household and she eventually went to live with the Cockers at Newbank.

She had legacies from her parents and her uncles at High Crompton and was a generous supporter of East Crompton Church, in 1908 she financed the building of St Saviour's Church.

In 1924 the Government decided that Senior Schools should be set up for all children over 11. All three parishes in Crompton had their own Church Schools, as had the Wesleyan Church.

Mary Crompton and her cousin Catherine Cocker were concerned that a Senior School set up by the Education Authority would not provide the same level of religious education as that provided by the Church Schools.

Unfortunately Catherine Cocker died before any action had been taken, her sister Mrs Anne Ormerod stepped in to assist Mary Crompton in the project.

Mary had inherited Crompton House, she could have sold it and added to her wealth, instead it was offered to 'The Association of Church Voluntary Schools' in Oldham, together with an endowment of £20,000 for the purpose of providing a Higher Standard Central School.

The offer was accepted by the Church authorities and sent to the Lancashire Education Committee, who were busy with their own plans for a Senior School in Crompton, they strongly opposed the proposals for Crompton House. For over a year a battle was waged between the Trustees of Crompton House, supported by the Manchester Diocesan Authority on the one hand, and the Lancashire and Local Education Committees on the other. It was suggested that there would never be enough children to fill two Senior Schools, another proposal was that the County School should be filled first, leaving any surplus children for Crompton House. Eventually the Education Authority admitted that they were 'greatly impressed by the munificence of the gift and the generous intentions of the promoters, and feel that it would be an unwise policy to refuse to accept the opportunity of improving the existing school accommodation of the area.'

The proposal for a new school at Crompton House survived, in August 1925 the buildings and grounds, together with an endowment of £20,000 for maintenance, were given into the custody of the Manchester Diocesan Board of Finance.

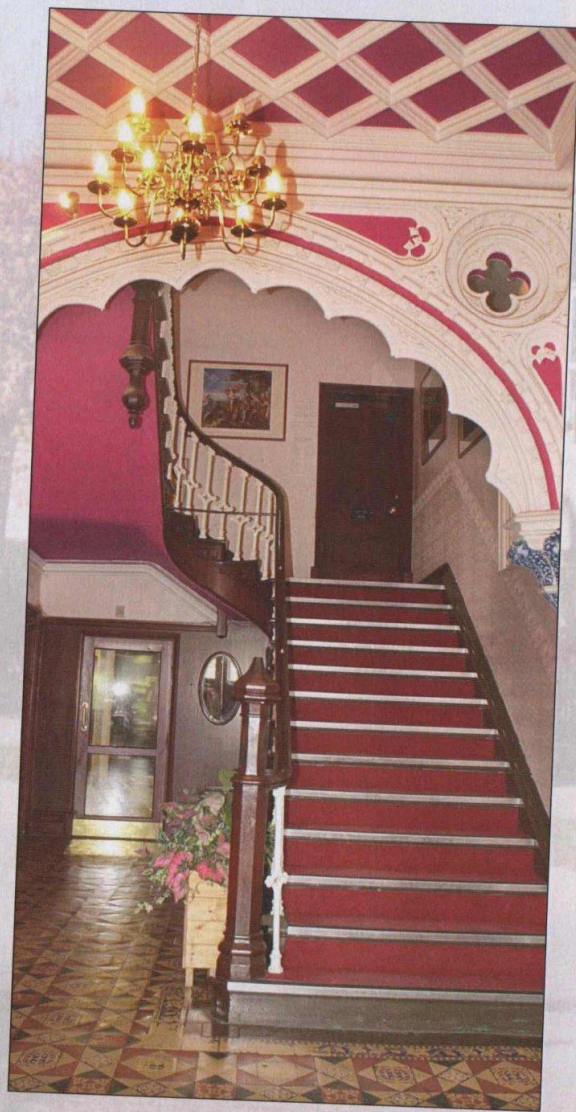
During the following year alterations were made to the house and outbuildings, transforming the family home into a school, the County Education Authority had built their Central School in Kings Road, now New Barn School.

The first Trustees of Crompton House School were:

Miss Mary Crompton
Mr James Kenneth Lees
Mrs Anne Ormerod
The Archdeacon of Rochdale
Miss Catherine Ormerod
The Rural Dean of Oldham
The Chairman of the Oldham Association of Church Schools

As well as Miss Crompton, Mrs Ormerod and Mrs Ridley (nee Ormerod) have given generous financial support to the school.

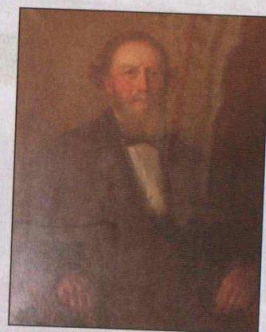
The Trustees of Crompton House pressed on with their plans and on 29 September 1926 with great ceremony and in the presence of a large assembly, The Dean of Manchester - Dr Hewlett Johnson, declared open Crompton House School, and on Friday 1 October 1926 the Headmaster - Mr Stuart Joseph Selwyn opened the doors of Crompton House School to his first twenty-five pupils.



Crompton House entrance hall



Coat of Arms in entrance porch



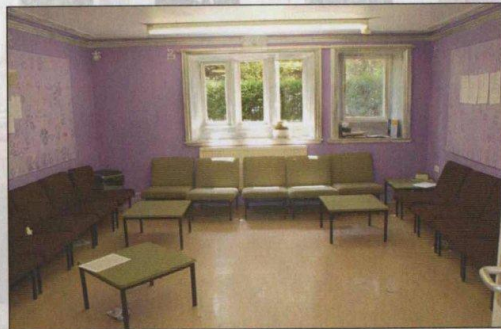
Abram Crompton 1821-1913



Mrs Anne Ormerod

<i>in the House-</i>	
<i>Fire Iron, Tongs, Poker, Shovel, Chafin dish, Spit Rack, Brags and</i>	<i>(See things) 2 14 00</i>
<i>Cup board, Pewter, and Clapboard - - - - -</i>	<i>3 02 00</i>
<i>Table, Buffets and Clock, Pork and Mutton - - - - -</i>	<i>5 11 00</i>
<i>Coach-Chairs, five Chairs and Spice Box - - - - -</i>	<i>1 08 00</i>
<i>Stools, Book-Case and Books - - - - -</i>	<i>1 10 06</i>

Extract from inventory in Abram Crompton's will, 1755



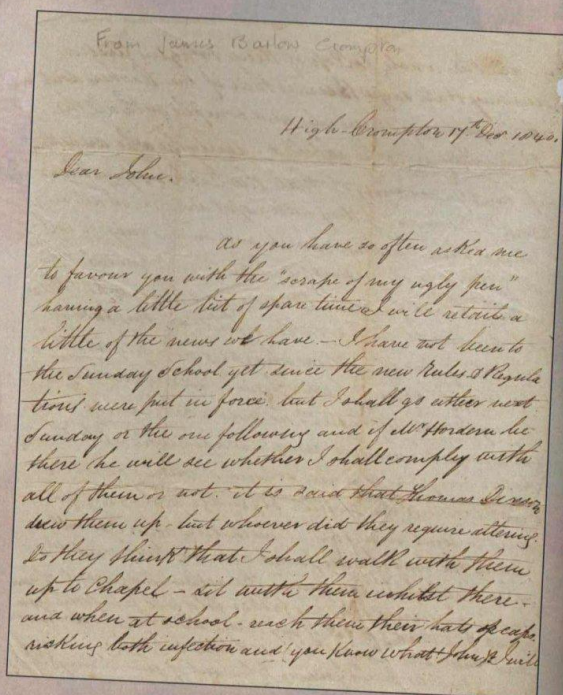
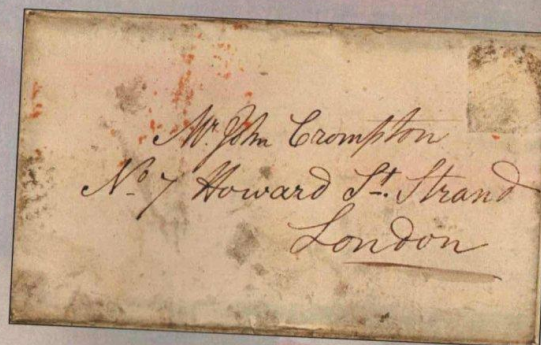
6th Form Common Room. The 'house' in the inventory



Lintel of doorway near school office



Catherine Cocker (nee Crompton) with James, Margaret & Catherine



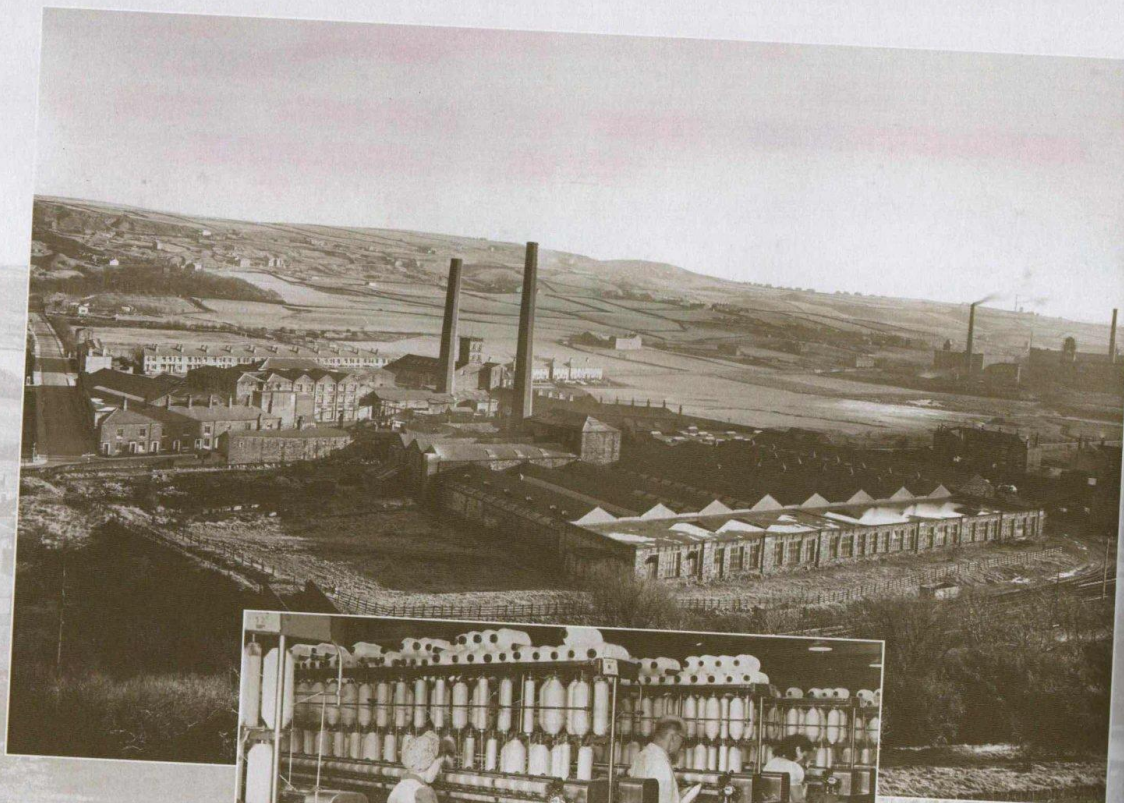
Letters, 1840



Opening of St. Saviour's Church, 1908



Abram Crompton (with beard) opening Dun Wood Park, 1911



A. & A. Crompton Mills



Ring spinning frames

ELSIE BALLARD



Mrs Ballard was Librarian at Crompton for many years. In 1967 her *Chronicle of Crompton* was published and has become the definitive history of the town. Elsie has had an ongoing interest in the history of Crompton House School and the Crompton family, the founders of the school.

Her first visit to Crompton House was to an Old Scholars' Association Dance in the school hall, now the library, after which she became a regular visitor to school functions.

In 1967 Joseph Wallbank Ballard was appointed Chairman of the Board of Governors and the School Trustees, positions he held until his death in 1994.

As the Chairman's wife Mrs Ballard became a familiar figure around the school, she has been Guest of Honour at Lower School Prize Giving, contributed historical articles for school brochures, and has even given a talk on the Lancashire dialect to Sixth Form English students!

In 1999 she officiated at the opening ceremony of our Joseph Wallbank Ballard Sixth Form Centre.

The school is delighted to have been involved in the production of this fascinating book.

Mrs Ballard has generously offered all proceeds from the sales of this book to the school Building Fund.



Elsie Ballard in Crompton Library